

INTERNATIONAL AGENDA

Florida Department of State ♦ Sandra B. Mortham, Secretary of State ♦ Office of International Relations ♦ April 1998

International Day 1998 a Success!

International Day '98 was a great success this year, bringing together over 200 people representing 18 different countries and numerous business, educational, and cultural groups. The event actually lasted two days this year due to increased interest, and the need to allow all the participants time to hold various meetings.

In addition to being hosted by Secretary Mortham, addressed by members of the Legislature, and given excellent presentations, participants were treated to a Caribbean steel drum concert courtesy of the Leon High School Steel Drum Band. Festivities were topped off by an authentic Mexican drum and dance performance at the closing reception held at the Museum of Florida History.

We would like to thank sponsors participants, staff, and Florida State University interns who made this an event to remember.

World Trade Week

The Fourth Annual World Trade Week will begin May 21st at the Signature Grand in Davie, Florida. Hosted by the World Trade Center of Ft. Lauderdale, the event recognizes international trade as the number one industry in Florida. For more information call (954) 761-9797.

Secretary Presents E Star Award

At the 1998 International Day luncheon on April 2nd, Secretary of State Sandra B. Mortham presented FARMA International with the prestigious E Star Award. The company, which was started and is run by 3 generations of Cuban-Americans, is one of the top Hispanic businesses in Dade County. All three generations of the Medina family were present at the luncheon to accept the award.

Established in 1969, the E Star Award was created by the President to acknowledge excellence in exporting. Only recipients of the E award are eligible for the E Star. FARMA International has illustrated its ability to successfully perform for years, earning its E Award in 1983. The pharmaceutical services it provides on a reliable and consistent basis are in demand worldwide. Currently FARMA International has private sector sales in 58 countries around the world.

Since its inception, FARMA International has maintained and increased sales in difficult overseas markets. Territories currently being covered are Central America, South America, Africa, and some markets in Europe.

We would like to congratulate the Medina family for being a leader in international business since 1966.

International Summit '98

The Metro Orlando International Affairs Commission will host the Fourth Annual International Summit on May 19, 1998 at the Clarion Hotel, International Drive. Mayor Glenda Hood will moderate the event, and will discuss the importance of international growth as we approach the year 2000. In addition, internationally recognized panelists will discuss the importance of global connection for local economies. The summit luncheon will feature Dr. John Stoessinger, a world renowned political analyst and a prize winning author of ten leading books on world politics. Following the International Summit, two seminars will be held addressing trade and investment with South America and business opportunities with South Africa.

Mission to Vietnam

The Florida Southeast Asia Initiative has opened a representative office in Vietnam and is planning a Florida Mission to Vietnam on May 10th-21st. The mission will consist of Florida leaders in business and industry, and government and education. The purpose of the mission is to introduce Florida leaders to mutually beneficial opportunities in Vietnam. For more information please contact Jerry Messic, Program Director of Florida Southeast Asia Initiative, at (850) 644-2688.